

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11 remain in the application but stand finally rejected. Claim 10 was previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 11 are in independent form.

The Applicant recognizes that it cannot, as a matter of right, amend finally rejected claims. However, the Applicant respectfully requests that these amendments to claims 1 and 11 be admitted after Final Rejection because certain claimed features were not clearly understood by the Examiner and alternative descriptive terms have been substituted therefor to place the application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. These clarifications are necessary to capture, in English, the intent of the inventors in view of the translated words from their original German language priority document.

These amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicant did not appreciate the terms were misunderstood by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced.

Referring to the Final Rejection, the Examiner has rejected claim 1, in part, based on the assertion that the limitation "on the level of" was not precise enough to define any structural difference from the shaft seal arrangement of Lansdale. The Applicant has herein amended claim 1 to substitute the objectionable language with the term "generally co-planer with." The Applicant respectfully submits that the limitation "on the level of" was intended by the Applicant to mean "generally co-planar with" and that this

descriptive terminology was used by the Applicant in the previous Amendment.

Translation of the original German text into English has resulted in the need for this clarifying terminology amendment.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Lansdale fails to teach or suggest a centering section being arranged generally co-planer with its partial-turn fastener feature 36. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be presented in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 11, the final rejection states that Figure 3 of Lansdale shows a lug arrangement that appears to be substantially identical with respect to the claimed features. The amendments presented here in connection with claim 11 are merely for the purpose of clarifying that the centering surface 12 of the partial-turn fastener engages the clearance 19' in the case opening while the lugs 17 rotate to a position behind the land regions 3'. Thus, the centering surface 12 provides a centering function simultaneously with the lugs 17 providing retention. The centering surfaces 12 engage the edges of the clearance through which the lugs 17 pass before they are rotated into a locked condition. Lansdale fails to disclose such an arrangement, which technique is simple, effective and economical.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to claims 1 and 11 should be admitted in this application because they are necessary to clarify the claimed subject matter which will facilitate an appeal should the Examiner maintain the rejections.

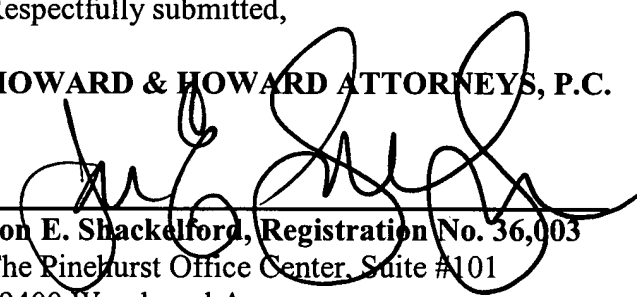
It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested. The undersigned representative of the Applicant respectfully invites a telephonic interview should the Examiner deem such warranted for the purposes of advancing prosecution in this application.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

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